**Appendix 10**

## Standard Operating Procedures

The Standard Operating Procedures, which also could be considered Best Management Practices, listed below provide an administrative framework for resource management. SOPs are not Land Use Plan decisions or allocations. They are listed to give the public and public lands users basic information on how resource uses will be managed. Specific decisions on resource use and land use allocations are included in the alternatives and/or Management Common to All Alternatives.

### GUIDELINES FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT

(from Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands, BLM, Utah 1997; GSENM MMP (2000) decisions which provide additional guidance are in italics)

1. Grazing management practices will be implemented that:

a) Maintain sufficient residual vegetation and litter on both upland and riparian sites to protect the soil from wind and water erosion and support ecological functions;

b) Promote attainment or maintenance of proper functioning condition riparian/wetland areas, appropriate stream channel morphology, desired soil permeability and infiltration, and appropriate soil conditions and kinds and amounts of plants and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow.

c) Meet the physiological requirements of desired plants and facilitate reproduction and maintenance of desired plants to the extent natural conditions allow;

d) Maintain viable and diverse populations of plants and animals appropriate for the site;

e) Provide or improve, within the limits of site potentials, habitat for Threatened or Endangered Species;

f) Avoid grazing management conflicts with other species that have the potential of becoming protected or special status species;

g) Encourage innovation, experimentation and the ultimate development of alternatives to improve rangeland management practices;

h) Give priority to rangeland improvement projects and land treatments that offer the best opportunity for achieving the Standards.

2. Any spring or seep developments will be designed and constructed to protect ecological process and functions and improve livestock and wildlife distribution.

3. New rangeland projects for grazing will be constructed in a manner consistent with the Standards. Considering economic circumstances and site limitations, existing rangeland projects and facilities that conflict with the achievement or maintenance of the Standards will be relocated and/or modified.

4. Livestock salt blocks and other nutritional supplements will be located away from riparian/wetland areas or other permanently located, or other natural water sources. It is recommended that the locations of these supplements be moved every year.

5. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. (See Vegetative Management in Chapter 2, Management Common To All Alternatives for additional guidance.)

6. When rangeland manipulations are necessary, the best management practices, including biological processes, fire and intensive grazing, will be utilized prior to the use of chemical or mechanical manipulations.

7. When establishing grazing practices and rangeland improvements, the quality of the outdoor recreation experience is to be considered. Aesthetic and scenic values, water, campsites and opportunities for solitude are among those considerations.

8. Feeding of hay and other harvested forage (which does not refer to miscellaneous salt, protein, and other supplements) for the purpose of substituting for inadequate natural forage will not be conducted on BLM lands other than in (a) emergency situations where no other resource exists and animal survival is in jeopardy, or (b) situations where the Authorized Officer determines such a practice will assist in meeting a Standard or attaining a management objective.

9. In order to eliminate, minimize, or limit the spread of noxious weeds, (a) only hay cubes, hay pellets, or certified weed-free hay will be fed on BLM lands, and (b) reasonable adjustments in grazing methods, methods of transport, and animal husbandry practices will be applied.

10. To avoid contamination of water sources and inadvertent damage to non-target species, aerial application of pesticides will not be allowed within 100 feet of a riparian/wetland area unless the product is registered for such use by the EPA.

11. On rangelands where a standard is not being met, and conditions are moving toward meeting the standard, grazing may be allowed to continue. On lands where a standard is not being met, conditions are not improving toward meeting the standard or other management objectives, and livestock grazing is deemed responsible, administrative

action with regard to livestock will be taken by the Authorized Officer pursuant to CFR 4180.2(c).

12. Where it can be determined that more than one kind of grazing animal is responsible for failure to achieve a Standard, and adjustments in management are required, those adjustments will be made to each kind of animal, based on interagency cooperation as needed, in proportion to their degree of responsibility.

13. Rangelands that have been burned, reseeded or otherwise treated to alter vegetative composition will be closed to livestock grazing as follows: (1) burned rangelands, whether by wildfire or prescribed burning, will be ungrazed for a minimum of one complete growing season following the burn; and (2) rangelands that have been reseeded or otherwise chemically or mechanically treated will be ungrazed for a minimum of two complete growing seasons. *GSENM MMP RM-3 indicates that the closure period may exceed two years.*

14. Conversions in kind of livestock (such as from sheep to cattle) will be analyzed in light of Rangeland Health Standards. Where such conversions are not adverse to achieving a Standard, or they are not in conflict with BLM land use plans, the conversion will be allowed. *GSENM MMP GRAZ-1 prohibits conversion from cows and horses to domestic sheep within nine (9) miles of bighorn sheep habitat.*

**GUIDELINES FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING**

15. Incorporated by reference GSENM Monument Management Plan, MMP Decisions and Appendix 2, Standard Procedures for Surface disturbing Projects and Proposals, Feb. 2000. Monitoring activities will be conducted following BLM protocol and direction in accordance with approved Handbooks, Technical References, and other appropriate Federal and State guidelines. These materials are available to the public on the internet and BLM offices.

16. Monitoring studies designed to measure the results of livestock management are essential to measure progress toward meeting management objectives and making necessary changes over time. They are also essential in assuring compliance with the Utah Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands. These studies, including utilization and trend, will monitor directly or indirectly the soils, ecosystem components and habitat and biota standards and associated indicators identified in the Standards and Guidelines.

17. Key species monitoring, including frequency and canopy cover, will be used to determine vegetative trends and assess soil stability and achievement of desired plant community objectives. In order to provide better estimate of productivity and rangeland capabilities, particularly within allotments not meeting Standards, monitoring will include periodic clip-and-weigh studies to estimate forage availability and provide a correlation with utilization and trend data and actual grazing use reported by the

permittees. Rangeland Health Assessments will be repeated when frequency and cover data indicate a change in trend has occurred.

18. Forage utilization and riparian stubble height measurements will be a standard part of rangeland monitoring. As a general guideline, forage utilization of the current year's growth should not exceed 50 % and riparian areas should maintain a residual stubble height of four (4) inches. Where these guidelines are found to be exceeded, or the allotment is not in an upward trend, riparian areas are not meeting proper functioning condition and/or Rangeland Health Standards are not being met, lower utilization levels may be implemented and adjustments to authorized grazing levels, pasture rotations, season of use and/or permit terms and conditions may be required. Where resource management goals support higher levels of forage utilization to reduce undesirable species and assist in achieving the desired future vegetative conditions, forage utilization exceeding 50 % may be allowed. In these cases the desired amount of forage utilization would be determined in advance and intensive monitoring conducted to avoid undesirable impacts.

19. Climatic data, seasonal and annual precipitation and temperature, will be analyzed and correlated to the trend, condition, utilization and actual use data to evaluate the overall management and attainment of objectives.

**RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS**

20. Where appropriate spring sources should be fenced to protect riparian vegetation and the water source from trampling. Sufficient water will be left at the source for vegetative, wildlife and recreational requirements, where appropriate. Spring development design will accommodate wildlife needs so that livestock and wildlife will not have direct competition on site. Livestock waters should be piped off-site to avoid concentrating use around the water source.

21. All water collection and storage structures will accommodate use by birds and all classes of terrestrial animals including the installation of escape ladders.

22. Water developments should be designed and built to blend into the natural background features of the surrounding landscape.

23. The impacts of new water improvements on surrounding lands will be monitored for degradation of resource conditions (see MMP WAT-1). If degradation is occurring the improvement will be redesigned or removed. An effort will be made to place new improvements near existing access routes so that new routes will not be necessary. Hauling water will be considered as an option where the need for new water sources is identified.

24. Fence design standards will be in accordance with BLM Handbook H-1741-1, technical references and other appropriate BLM guidelines. All fences will be designed to assure a minimum of impacts to wildlife (including considerations for wildlife

passage), recreation and visual resources. All fences will have appropriate hiker/equestrian/pack stock gates installed. New or reconstructed livestock fences in pronghorn antelope habitat would meet specifications adopted by BLM.

25. Where fences limit access to riparian reaches (streams), water gaps will be provided as appropriate. However, "ribbon" fencing of long stretches of riparian reaches will be considered a method of last resort in addressing riparian issues and restoring areas to Proper Functioning Condition.

**GUIDELINES FOR SOILS MANAGEMENT**

26. Construct waterbars, lead out ditches, or rolling dips on sloping two tracks and roads.

27. Lead out ditches and waterbars should not be constructed in such a manner as to divert runoff into stream courses.

28. Designate stream and draw crossings to protect the banks from erosion during ground disturbing activities where drainages and stream courses (wet or dry) are crossed.

29. Where fire has removed the surface litter component to the degree that would initiate erosion, emergency fire rehabilitation actions will be initiated to stabilize soils.

**GRAZING PERMIT – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

30. With considerations for adverse weather and soil conditions, livestock trailing should be completed at a minimum of 10 miles per day and done as a herd rather than allowing the drift of individual animals.

31. Actual use reports are required and submitted for every allotment in order to correlate monitoring data with use data.